AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** A method for the production of coated workpieces, comprising the steps of:

a) ~~electrodeposition of~~ electrodepositing one or more layers containing at least one metal and/or metal alloy on a substrate, and

b) ~~thermal treatment of~~ thermally treating the coated substrate at a temperature of between 300°C and 1000°C in such a way that at least the surface layer of the substrate and the layer or layers applied in step a) partially and/or completely interdiffuse.

2. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the substrate of step a) is electrically conductive.

3. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the substrate of step a) is a metallic substrate and/or metallized substrate.

4. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the metallic substrate and/or metallized substrate includes one or more metals, said metals preferably being transition metals.

5. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the substrate is selected from the group of substrates ~~including~~ consisting of the metals magnesium, zinc, tin, titanium, iron, nickel, chromium, vanadium, tungsten, molybdenum, manganese, cobalt and mixtures and/or alloys thereof.

6. **(Currently amended)** The method according to ~~at least one of claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to~~ ~~5~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the layer of step a) is coated from a non-aqueous electrolyte or from an aqueous electrolyte.

7. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the layer of step a) is selected from aluminum, magnesium, tin, nickel and mixtures and/or alloys thereof.

8. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim ~~6 or~~ 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the metal alloy includes an aluminum/magnesium alloy and/or an aluminum/tin alloy.

9. **(Currently amended)** The method according to ~~one or more of claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to~~ ~~8~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the temperature and/or duration of the thermal treatment of step

b) is selected in such a way that an alloy containing metal of the surface layer of the substrate and metal and/or metal alloy of the coated layer will be formed at least in the boundary area between substrate and coated layer of step a).

10. **(Currently amended)** The method according to ~~one or more of claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to~~ ~~9~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the temperature of thermal treatment of step b) is between 400°C and 1000°C~~, preferably between 450°C and 900°C, and most preferably between 500°C and 800° C~~.

11. **(Currently amended)** The method according to ~~one or more of claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to~~ ~~10~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the duration of thermal treatment in step b) is between 1 second and 10 hours~~, preferably between 1 minute and 5 hours, and most preferably between 2 minutes and 3 hours~~.

12. **(Currently amended)** The method according to ~~one or more of claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to~~ ~~11~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein subsequent to coating the layer in step a) and prior to performing the thermal treatment in step b), the layer is subjected to further treatment.

13. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said treatment is anodic oxidation~~, which preferably is anodization of the layer~~.

14. **(Currently amended)** The method according to ~~at least one of claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to~~ ~~13~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the coated workpieces are rack goods, bulk materials, continuous products or molded articles~~, the coated workpiece preferably being a wire, a metal sheet, a screw, a nut, a concrete anchorage, a machine component part, an engine, an engine part, or a turbine blade~~.

15. **(Currently amended)** A coated workpiece, which can be obtained according to ~~one or more of claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 14~~.

16. **(Currently amended)** The coated workpiece according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~the~~ coated workpieces are rack goods, bulk materials, continuous products or molded articles~~, the coated workpiece preferably being a wire, a metal sheet, a screw, a nut, a concrete anchorage, a machine component part, an engine, an engine part, or a turbine blade~~.

17. **(New)** The method of Claim 10, wherein the temperature of thermal treatment of step b) is between 450°C and 900°C.

18. **(New)** The method of Claim 10, wherein the temperature of thermal treatment of step b) is between 500°C and 800°C.

19. **(New)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the duration of thermal treatment in step b) is between 1 minute and 5 hours.

20. **(New)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the duration of thermal treatment in step b) is between 2 minutes and 3 hours.

21. **(New)** The method according to claim 13, wherein said anodic oxidation is anodization of the layer.

22. **(New)** The method of Claim 14, wherein said coated workpieces are selected from the group consisting of a wire, a metal sheet, a screw, a nut, a concrete anchorage, a machine component part, an engine, an engine part, and a turbine blade.